



Town of Arlington, Massachusetts
730 Massachusetts Ave., Arlington, MA 02476
Phone: 781-316-3000

webmaster@town.arlington.ma.us

Recreation Commission Minutes 12/08/2009

Park and Recreation Commission

Minutes

Tuesday, December 08, 2009

Approved

The Park and Recreation Commission came to order at 7:00 PM on the first floor of the Arlington Senior Center on Tuesday, December 08, 2009.

Members in attendance included: Leslie Mayer, Jen Rothenberg, Jim Robillard and Don Vitters. Also in attendance was Director of Recreation Joseph Connelly.

Members of the public included: Dave Cunningham Facility Supervisor, Oakes Plimpton, Elizabeth Carr-Jones, Terry McLaughlin, David Warner, Jeanne Leary, D. Leung, Alice Leung, Caila Cerrato, Michele Durocher, Quimars Hedaytian, Perry Stone and Mike Smith.

Approval of Minutes

Ms. Rothenberg motioned to approve the November 10, 2009 minutes, seconded by Mr. Robillard, and approved 4-0.

Review of Arlington Sport Center Rink Improvement Project

Mr. McLaughlin reviewed the plans for the rink renovation. Mr. McLaughlin reviewed the boards, bed and glass plans with the Commission. Mr. Cunningham and Mr. McLaughlin stated that the dehumidification system would be a hard-galvanized system and would not use a soft sock system. Mr. McLaughlin continued to review the header trench, low e-ceiling and roofing repairs.

The Commission reviewed the plans.

Mr. Connelly stated that a decision needed to be made regarding the order of the alternates. Mr. Connelly stated that the current draft order was 10' rink expansion, low e-ceiling and sub-floor heating respectively. The Commission discussed the alternatives. Ms. Mayer stated that she would like to see the sub floor heating system placed before the low e-ceiling. The Commission discussed the changes.

Mr. Connelly stated Mr. Vitters and himself would be reviewing the specification with Mr. McLaughlin prior to bidding and hoped the bid would be advertised in early January.

Mr. Vitters motioned to approve the plan as submitted with the order of the alternatives to be:

1. Rink expansion by 10'
2. Sub floor heating system
3. Low e-ceiling

The motion was seconded by Mr. Robillard and approved 4-0.

Summer Street Playground Design Review

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Mr. Connelly reviewed the project to date with Mr. Warner reviewing some of the most recent changes. Mr. Warner discussed the recycled plastic component of the material as well as the zero entry features being designed. Mr. Warner reviewed the play space

adjacent to Buck Field. The Commission discussed the need for fencing the entire area. Mr. Warner suggested that an L shaped fence at the far end of the playground might suffice. The Commission discussed the placement of the swings and requested that wood carpet and mats be used instead of the rubberized material. Mr. Warner reviewed the path to the playground and briefly discussed the suggested pathway material. Ms. Mayer stated that a bituminous pathway did not match the natural setting of the playground and was not the material the Commission has approved in the past. Mr. Warner explained that reasons for the bituminous but suggested some natural porous alternatives. The Commission agreed that this type of surfacing made sense.

Mr. Warner reviewed the fitness area and components and explained how the tot pieces would be integrated into the project. Ms. Rothenberg asked to see some specific examples of the tot equipment. Mr. Warner stated that he would e-mail the cut sheets of the proposed equipment. Ms. Rothenberg discussed her concerns over the surfacing of the bocce court. Mr. Connelly stated that the material would be rolled and more compacted than a regular play area surfacing. Mr. Connelly explained that the DPW has committed to stone dust replacement on the pathway systems and this should be a similar request. Ms. Rothenberg also shared her concerns over the concrete patio in the seating area. The Commission agreed and asked Mr. Warner to only include concrete directly under the tables.

Ms. Leary stated her concerns over the security of the area. Ms. Leary requested lighting and a surveillance system including cameras. Mr. Connelly stated that the Arlington Police Dept were reviewing the plans and would be making these security recommendations. Ms. Leary stated her concern over the timing of the recommendations. Mr. Connelly stated that he believed any major request for funding for security should be submitted as a separate capital request and was outside the scope of this project. Ms. Mayer agreed and stated that upon receiving the APD recommendations alternate funding sources could be investigated.

The Commission discussed the budget and bid alternates with Mr. Warner. The Commission asked Mr. Warner to include the fitness components within the base budget. Mr. Connelly suggested that the Commission hold off on a final vote until January so that Mr. Warner could have time to revise the current plans for review. The Commission and Mr. Warner agreed that holding the vote until January made sense.

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Athletic Club Arlington Field Review

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Mr. Connelly reviewed the situation regarding the expansion of the AC Arlington program. Mr. Connelly stated that the original approval was based on two teams and now according to the Maple schedule there were seven teams. Mr. Hedaytian stated that the program did grow slightly but not as much as it appeared. Mr. Hedaytian explained that the team sizes have become smaller and that many of the teams did not use Arlington fields during the week, and only an occasional game on the weekend. Mr. Stone commented that three or four of the teams were Arlington in name only but did not use Arlington Fields during the week.

Mr. Connelly stated that this may be true but he wanted to review the rosters and percentage of Arlington residents. Mr. Hedaytian submitted the rosters and it appeared that 52% of the players were from Arlington with 48% from other communities. The Commission discussed how the rate could be adjusted so the out of town residents paid more. Mr. Connelly suggested that the \$11 per player rate would make sense, as it is currently the rate paid by Arlington Catholic and would be simple to calculate.

Mr. Stone stated that their organization wanted to work with the Arlington Soccer Club and the town to coexist and would be willing to pay their fair share. Mr. Hedaytian also stated that members of their organization already help maintain and supervise the fields.

The Commission and members of Arlington Athletic Club discussed the issue with non-permitted users at Thorndike field.

Mr. Connelly did explain that current practice AC Arlington only receives fields and times not requested by other organizations but he also stated that ASC has worked with AC Arlington to allow this to happen.

Ms. Mayer asked that AC Arlington submit an entire roster with addresses each season and supported the proposal that non-residents pay a higher rate.

Mr. Robillard made a motion to approve the use of fields by AC Arlington with fees being charged to residents of \$7.25 per player and non-residents at \$11 per player. AC Arlington would be required to provide the detailed roster each season. The motion was seconded by Ms. Rothenberg and approved 4-0.

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Reservoir Season Pass Fee Review

Mr. Connelly reviewed his request to raise the Reservoir Beach seasonal pass fees by \$3 per person for residents and \$5 per person for non-residents. Mr. Connelly reviewed the reasoning for his request, highlighting that the fee has not increased since 2006. The Commission discussed the request. Ms. Rothenberg motioned to approve the increase, seconded by Mr. Robillard and approved 4-0.

Special Event Approvals

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Mr. Connelly indicated that a film permit request may be forthcoming for December 10, 2009 but no detailed information was available at this time.

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Capital Improvement Update

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Thorndike Parking – Mr. Connelly stated that the project was slated to be bid in early winter for a spring/summer build.

Summer Street Play ground – See above review.

Summer Street Fencing and Pavement Removal – Mr. Connelly reviewed Mr. Bean's letter to the abutters detailing the changes to the paved parking area.

Spy Pond Play ground Surfacing – Mr. Connelly stated that the project was now complete.

North Union Basketball Court – Mr. Connelly stated that the Town Manager has asked that this project be on hold until some more information is available for the Thompson School renovation project.

Request for additional playground fencing for Magnolia, Crosby and Parallel – Tabled until a later meeting

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Rink and Recreation Update

Robbins Farm Community/Educational Garden Project

Mr. Connelly reviewed the proposal for the community garden. Mr. Connelly stated that the two outstanding issues included a temporary water source and the type/style of fencing. Mr. Connelly had reviewed the water source issue with the Town Engineer and using the hydrant for a temporary water source was possible but there was an issue on how to lock the system when not in use. Mr. Connelly stated that Mr. Rademacher was working with the Water Dept on finding a solution.

Mr. Plimpton discussed the fencing options. Mr. Plimpton explained that a standard wooden snow fence painted green as was already on site would be cost effective and would be a suitable temporary option. The Commission asked that the fence be secured in regular intervals so that it was more secure than the standard snow fence at the reservoir and that it be checked carefully for sharp jagged edges.

The Commission discussed the pilot nature of the project and wanted Mr. Connelly to make sure the program was open to all. Mr. McGrath stated that he would send the notice to all of the applicants of the community gardens at Magnolia Field who did not get a garden plot last season.

The Commission discussed the timing of the notices. Mr. McGrath will work on getting the notices out in January so that the Community Educational Garden Task Force would have time to offer their lottery.

Mr. McGrath, Mr. Connelly and members of the garden task force will work on the publicity.

Mr. Vitters motioned to approve the pilot community garden project at Robbins Farm for the time period of February 1, 2010 to October 31, 2010 with a review to occur in November 2010. The motion was seconded by Jim Robillard and approved 4-0.

Park Policies

Mr. Connelly stated that the storage shed policy and amplification usage would be discussed with the Field users at their February annual meeting, so that the Commission can create or modify policies in time for spring.

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Committee Updates

N/A

Other

Ms. Rothenberg motioned to adjourn, seconded by Mr. Vitters and approved 4-0. Meeting adjourned at 10:35 PM.

Respectfully Submitted:

Joseph Connelly, Director of Recreation